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Security Council

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Letter dated 9 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Peru, the Security Council plans to hold a high-level briefing on the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace" on 25 April 2018.

In this regard, Peru has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council high-level briefing on the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", to be held on 25 April 2018

I. Background

1. On 27 April 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2282 (2016), which was substantially identical to General Assembly resolution 70/262, adopted simultaneously, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

2. The Security Council, in its resolution 2282 (2016), and the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/262, recognized that "sustaining peace" should be broadly understood as a goal and a process by which to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account. This encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing its root causes, helping parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development.

3. Moreover, the Security Council and the General Assembly, in the two resolutions, posited that a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace should flow through the engagement of all three pillars of the United Nations — international peace and security, human rights and development — at all stages of conflict and in all its dimensions. This expressly includes strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels and promoting the eradication of poverty, sustainable development, access to justice, accountability, good governance, democracy and gender equality.

4. In the two resolutions, the Security Council and the General Assembly expressed their appreciation for the contribution of peacekeeping operations to sustaining peace and peacebuilding, while acknowledging the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. In this regard, the Council expressed its intention to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the advice of the Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

5. Building upon such a comprehensive approach, on 21 December 2017, the Security Council adopted a statement by the President of the Council (S/PRST/2017/27), in which the Council stressed the need for more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts with regard to a common strategy for sustaining peace that involves national and regional actors, including women and young people, the entire United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, involved in supporting nationally led processes in conflict-affected countries.

6. In this regard, the Security Council recognized the need to weigh the full range of responses when addressing a situation that may endanger international peace and security, and to deploy United Nations peacekeeping missions and pursue peacebuilding efforts only as an accompaniment, not as an alternative, to a political strategy addressing the root causes of conflict. It also emphasized the importance of integrated analyses of opportunities and challenges for sustainable peace and their

relevance to developing context-specific solutions in countries emerging from conflicts.

7. In addition, the Security Council highlighted the importance of considering clear, achievable, sequenced and phased mandates, based on enhanced analysis and planning, when evaluating existing or establishing new peacekeeping operations, drawing upon the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission. It also expressed its intention to consider specific elements relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace when reviewing the mandates and the configuration of peacekeeping missions, including the existence of a coordinated exit strategy.

II. Rationale

8. In response to the consensus reached by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 2016, on 18 January 2018, the Secretary-General issued his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), which he linked to his ongoing efforts towards repositioning the United Nations development system, reforming management and restructuring the peace and security pillar — all aimed at ensuring greater coherence and accountability and generating greater synergies across the Organization in support of States in their efforts to build and sustain peaceful societies, with a particular focus on enhancing the capacities for conflict prevention.

9. In turn, the President of the General Assembly has decided to convene a high-level meeting on efforts and opportunities taken to strengthen the work of the United Nations in sustaining peace, to be held on 24 and 25 April 2018. The Assembly may adopt a resolution acknowledging the report of the Secretary-General and considering its recommendations, while ensuring adequate intergovernmental follow-up to ongoing peacebuilding and peace-sustaining efforts, in line with existing mandates.

10. As an important focus of its membership in the Security Council, it is a priority of Peru to promote a peace-sustaining approach to preventing and effectively addressing the root causes of conflict. This is in line with its commitment to multilateralism and the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and is based on its own national experience in building and sustaining a peaceful and inclusive society, resulting from a broad national consensus on effectively addressing the root causes of conflict and strengthening inclusive institutions for the promotion of sustainable development.

11. In this context, as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2018, Peru intends to convene a high-level meeting aimed at offering members of the Council an opportunity to share their views on the implications for the Council of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a complement to, and building upon, the momentum generated by the high-level event of the General Assembly.

III. Guiding questions

12. We encourage interventions that address the following questions:

- How can the Security Council and its peacekeeping missions contribute to strengthening coherence and coordination among United Nations entities concerned with peacebuilding and efforts to sustain peace in countries affected by conflict?
- How can the Security Council help to ensure an adequate transition from conflict to post-conflict situations, including by adopting exit strategies for

peacekeeping missions that help to lay the foundation for long-term and sustainable peace, in line with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations?

- How can the Security Council, in cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, further support the building of institutional capacities at the national level, as well as efforts towards preventive diplomacy on the part of the Secretary-General, regional and subregional organizations and States, for strategically and systematically addressing situations that lead or may lead to the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict?

- How can the Security Council further promote the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women and young people, in national processes for peacebuilding and sustaining peace?

IV. Briefers

13. The following speakers will brief the Security Council:

- The Secretary-General

- The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Identical letters dated 10 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following the previous letters I have addressed to you regarding the repeated and continuing terrorist attacks by armed terrorist groups on the city of Damascus and its suburbs, and upon instructions from my Government, I would like to inform you that on 6 April 2018 those terrorist groups targeted residential neighbourhoods in Damascus with 19 rocket-propelled grenades, killing 5 civilians and wounding 33 others, in addition to causing serious damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Identical letters dated 9 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime (S/2018/199), I should like to state the following:

Qatar reiterates that it categorically rejects the false accusations that are levelled against it repeatedly in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime. Those accusations are being made at a time when the Syrian regime continues to prosecute its savage military campaign against civilians in eastern Ghutah, use prohibited weapons and carry out indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians. According to the reports of international rights organizations and the United Nations, thousands of children, women and vulnerable persons have been killed in those attacks.

It is an outrage that this regime, which has violated all human values and conventions, continues to believe that it can fool the international community and divert attention from the mass atrocities that it has committed against civilians by addressing letters to the Security Council in which it repeatedly makes false, time-worn allegations against States that respect the rule of law and strive assiduously to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions. The regime's efforts will not deter the international community from supporting the Syrian people, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The letter from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime is a desperate attempt to cover up the regime's blatant violation of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018). The Syrian regime continues to target defenceless civilians, citing what any reasonable person can see are spurious pretexts. Moreover, it has no regard for the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and rights organizations, and has rejected the international community's demands that it must stop massacring defenceless Syrian civilians. Such conduct, which has occurred time and again, reaffirms that this regime has exceeded all bounds, pays no heed to the dire consequences of its actions, has forgotten that there is no statute of limitations for crimes under international law and is unaware that the day when it will be held to account for its crimes against the Syrian people is now closer than ever now that the international community has decided to establish, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/248, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

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The Syrian regime's record is replete with horrific atrocities, and the transgressions that it has committed are without precedent. Qatar will therefore never tolerate the iniquity of having accusations levelled against it by a regime that is disconnected from the people and isolated at the regional and international levels. Its statements and claims no longer have any credibility. The above-mentioned letter, which is filled with lies about States that cooperate with the United Nations to provide aid to civilians in Syria, will not diminish the regional and international standing of Qatar or detract from its efforts to promote international cooperation in response to shared challenges. Moreover, Qatar will not deviate from its well-known policy of respecting international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and United Nations resolutions.

In keeping with the policy of Qatar and its well-known effectiveness in countering terrorism, and given that Qatar is an active partner of the international community in the fight to eradicate this danger, which threatens all States and societies, Qatar reaffirms its commitment to doing everything it can to counter terrorism and support regional and international efforts to establish regional and international stability and security. Qatar would like to reiterate that it strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and wherever committed and regardless of the motivation, because terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

In line with its commitment to internationally binding resolutions, its well-known policies regarding the Syrian crisis and its belief that there must be a political solution to that crisis, Qatar reiterates its support for a political solution that is based on the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. It will continue to work with the United Nations and the international community to bring about a political solution that preserves the territorial integrity of Syria and guarantees the legitimate rights of the Syrian people, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and human rights law.

Qatar once again calls upon the Security Council to take all measures required to protect civilians from the crimes that are being committed against them by the Syrian regime. In addition, the Council must take the steps needed to hold accountable those who are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been committed in Syria, and ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished and are brought to international justice.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative